

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1986

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: LE MORG
SUBJ: RAYAK AIR BASE

REF: (A) STATE 089601, (B) BEIRUT 1982

1. IN SPITE OF POSTPONEMENT NOTED REF (B), TEAM CHIEF
AND TWO MEMBERS OF SURVEY TEAM, INCLUDING QUALIFIED ARMY
AVIATOR, BRIEFLY VISITED RAYAK AIR BASE TODAY. WHILE
VISIT COULD, IN NO COMPREHENSIVE SENSE, EVALUATE EITHER
FACILITIES OR SECURITY SITUATION, FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS
OF TEAM PROVIDE SOME ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS INTO REQUIREMENTS
POSED REF A.

2. CIVILIAN POPULATION IN RAYAK AREA APPEARED TO BE
GOING ABOUT ACTIVITIES ON VERY MUCH BUSINESS-AS-USUAL
BASIS. SOME SYRIAN-MANNED ROAD BLOCKS AND CHECKPOINTS
OBSERVED, BUT ALL WERE LOW-KEY AND SMALL. MAJOR CHECKPOINT
ENCOUNTERED WAS MANNED SUBSTANTIALLY BY LEBANESE
POLICE. AIR BASE SECURITY PER SE SEEMED ADEQUATE
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IN MAIN BASE BUILT-UP AREA. RUNWAYS, HOWEVER SECURED
ONLY BY LOW FENCE SURROUNDED BY CULTIVATED FIELDS. FENCE
LINE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE PATROLLED.

3. BASE TO INCLUDE RUNWAYS AND RAMPS WAS IMMACULATE.
RUNWAY IS CONCRETE WITHOUT VISIBLE DEFECTS. SURFACE
IS 2960 METERS BY 48 METERS AND REPORTED TO BE 40

CENTIMETERS THICK. CONCRETE MAIN TAXIWAY, ALSO IN GOOD SHAPE, REPORTED TO BE SAME THICKNESS. VEGETATION RECENTLY SPRAYED WITH HERBICIDE AND MARGINS CLEAR OF ALL SCRUB. RUNWAY LIGHTS DO NOT REPEAT NOT WORK DUE TO CABLE OUTAGE. NO OBSTRUCTIONS AT EITHER END OF RUNWAY.

4. FUEL STORAGE CAPABILITY REPORTED TO BE 400,000 LITERS BUT ONLY JP ONE MAINTAINED ON HAND. EMERGENCY OR SHORT-TERM BILLETING SAID TO BE AVAILABLE ON-BASE, BUT ABSENT ANY INDICATION OF REQUIREMENTS THIS ASPECT NOT PURSUED. VHF DIRECTION FINDER IS ONLY AVAILABLE AND OPERATIONAL NAVIGATIONAL AID.

5. PREVAILING WINDS ARE FROM WEST. RUNWAY IS ORIENTED NORTHEAST TO SOUTHWEST. NORMAL APPROACH IS FROM NORTHEAST; THEREFORE, SOME SLIGHT CROSSWINDS USUALLY ENCOUNTERED. SAFE ALTITUDE IS 13,000 FEET UNTIL AIRCRAFT LINES UP ON FINAL APPROACH. ALL TURNS ARE TO WEST OF AIRFIELD TO AVOID OVERFLYING SYRIA. COMMERCIAL AIR TRAFFIC OVERFLYING AREA IS MAINTAINED ABOVE 20,000 FEET.

6. RAYAK APPEARS TO BE ENTIRELY ADEQUATE FOR VFR, DAYLIGHT OPERATIONS.

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